

In the above amendments, the specification has been replaced with a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), and a separate specification document showing the amendments that were made is submitted herewith. Claims 1-15 originally submitted with the above application have been cancelled and new claims 16-33 have been added.

The Advisory Action mailed January 6, 2000 in connection with the parent application indicated that continuity with the parent application was not established since there was no common inventor between the parent application and a prior application, U.S. Serial No. 08/672,775 and that the inventors' declaration was defective since it lacked a statement regarding the duty of disclosure in a CIP application. In the substitute specification submitted herewith, the statement noted above that the parent application is a CIP of the prior application has been removed. Consequently, since the parent application is not a CIP of any prior application, it is believed that the original inventors' declaration is no longer defective.

A number of other amendments to the specification have been made for purposes of clarity or to correct what are believed to be obvious errors. Regarding the change in the serial number of the patent application referred to on page 7, line 31 of the original specification, the correct serial number should be 08/497,662 (which is referred to on page 1, line 21 of the original specification), which should be obvious since U.S. Serial No. 08/672,775 has nothing to do with software verification. It is respectfully submitted that none of the amendments adds new matter.

A request for approval of drawing changes and an information disclosure statement are also submitted herewith.

If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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